



## Alabama Department of Labor

### News Release

For Immediate Release: July 25, 2013

### Alabama Department of Labor Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that the Department has successfully prosecuted several Alabamians for unemployment compensation fraud. The following individuals were charged with violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law by making false statements in claims for benefits:

- Kerry D. English, of Bessemer, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on July 12, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that English received a total of \$3,117 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

English pled guilty and was sentenced to 12 months in jail, which was suspended pending restitution, and 24 months of probation. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Bennie M. Miller, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on July 18, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Miller received a total of \$3,602 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Miller pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended pending restitution, and given two years of probation. She was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Fredrick Nutter, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on July 10, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Nutter received a total of \$1,247 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Nutter pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days hard labor, suspended for two years pending behavior of the defendant. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Octavia Anders, of Cottondale, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on July 17, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Anders received a total of \$2,930 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Anders pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days hard labor, which was suspended for two years pending the behavior of the defendant. She was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Howard Higgins, of Echola, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on July 17, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Higgins received a total of \$4,118 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Higgins pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days hard labor, which was suspended for two years, pending behavior of the defendant. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Rodney J. Agee, of Fairfield, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on July 15, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Agee received a total of \$3,496 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Agee pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of probation. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Tina Yelverton, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on July 9, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Yelverton received a total of \$2,290 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Yelverton pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Jordan E. Owen, of Jacksonville, was tried in Calhoun County District Court on July 9, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Owen received a total of \$1,613 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Owen pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also fined \$100 and required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- David Glenn, of Wadley, was tried in Randolph County District Court of July 23, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Glenn received \$244.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Glenn was found guilty and was fined \$100 and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“In these economic times, we want to make sure that all who are entitled to benefits receive them. But at the same time, we will not allow those who deliberately try to defraud the system to go unpunished,” said Surtees. “We are working with local District Attorney Offices to make sure that we can identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes. We would also like to remind employers that their timely reporting of new hires is one of the best tools we have to detect unemployment fraud. ”

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to the Alabama Department of Labor by calling 1-800-392-8019.

Employers may find more information regarding reporting new hires at <https://labor.alabama.gov/uc/partials/default.aspx>.

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*Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.*